



# "In The Orchard" Newsletter

Orchard Valley United Church of Canada  
Easter Newsletter April 20, 2014  
Vol. 2



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## Annika's Message

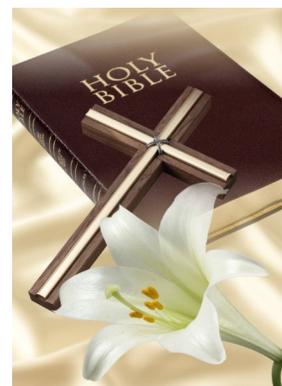
Easter is a mysterious time. This can be a very hard time of year for those who have transitioned to a progressive or emergent theology. Progressive or emergent theology is something that many people dabble in, without even realizing it. Perhaps you are wondering what this theology is or if maybe you are part of this growing understanding. Ask yourself some of the following questions. Let both your head and your heart answer them.

the mystery of Easter  
Any time we gather together to express love for one another and work towards changing the world.

4. Prayer is:  
Direct communication to God, which is always answered  
Is a expression of hope, I won't always understand the answer.  
A request for action, and action in return by me.

5. Easter is:  
the time of remembering the miracle of resurrection  
Something I don't really understand  
The recognition of empire's roll in the story of Jesus, and how Jesus inspired people to change the world anyway.

If you answered mostly Bs, Cs, or couldn't answer, then you are at least thinking about Christianity in a different way. Sometimes in the exploration of your thoughts and feelings about Easter, it can be a bit confusing and sad. What do you do with the resurrection? I'm a big fan of the metaphorical approach.



The resurrection doesn't need to be just about the physical body of Jesus. Even though the man died a physically horrible and public death, his friends and followers still managed to carry out the work he started. I believe that this is the real and much harder to achieve resurrection. It lasted for more than a couple of weeks, we are still part of the resurrection as we work towards the kingdom. So if you are struggling between your head and your heart, stop worrying about it. There is mystery, Jesus inspired a nation and beyond. How could someone from such humble beginnings accomplish so much, even after death?

"Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20

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1. Do you believe that Jesus was:  
divine, son of God with special healing powers  
divine and human, a little bit of both  
human, with a really good understanding of how humans can connect to God.

2. God is:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
Creator, Teacher, Spirit  
Love in all of its beautiful forms

3. Communion is:  
The body and blood of Jesus  
A symbolic action to remember

## "The True Worth of Our Gift" by Theresa Perrin

I was preparing a list of committee and group members, when I realized that more than 125 people serve on OVUC committees, in groups, on Sunday mornings, or during events such as our retreats, yard sales and soup luncheons. Since Sunday attendance is usually around 150, I was struck by how many of these people who were once strangers are now working together as a church family to serve others. I wanted to tell them – you – what the gift of self means to those who receive it.

I didn't need to find the words myself, however. On Wednesday, April 9, my husband Laurie spoke to the volunteers of the Wolfville Nursing Home, where he serves as chaplain. I felt his words were true not only for "his" volunteers, but for "mine" as well:

Volunteering is more than meeting a need. It is sharing something of value, something that is special to both the giver and the receiver. How amazing is it to experi-

ence the joy another receives from a skill or talent, or any kindness or benevolence that you have to share.

A story comes to mind of someone who modelled selfless yet optimistic and hopeful giving. The gospels recount the instance of a poor, elderly widow whose worldly wealth consisted of two meager coins. She made her way to the temple in Jerusalem and gave them over to the temple treasury. Such was her hope and dedication to seeking and seeing God's blessing that "she, out of her poverty, put in all the livelihood that she had." What could she hope to benefit? She understood that riches were to be found in giving both her strength and also her weakness to the Lord, for "in your weakness, my strength is made perfect," Jesus said.

I expect the true value of the widow's gift was lost in the milieu, but the true value was not counted in the denomination of the coins, but rather in the commitment she held within

her heart to see the good prevail.

So when we volunteer, giving of ourselves, the true worth of our gift is not tallied upon a ledger, but rather it is written in the memories and senses of those we have touched. The magnitude of what volunteers share cannot be measured in cost – material or temporal – but rather in the genuineness and sincerity of the offering.

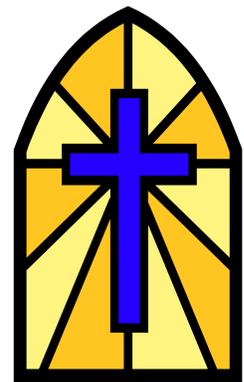
2 Cor 9:6, 7 – <sup>6</sup> But this I say: one who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; but one who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully – every person according as they purpose in their heart, so let them give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.

If, when we volunteer our time or energy, we proceed with specific expectations or desired outcomes, we are certain to be surprised. And if we're disappointed with results, we may be missing the bigger picture, for people do not fall into easily understood categories of likes

and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses. People, made in the image of God, have the capacity and the need to love and to be loved. Volunteering is most rewarding when it is done without striving for a specific reaction, or word of praise, or a pat on the back. It is most rewarding when the bond of friendship emerges and rises above any worries or frustrations or expectations.

I hope that the rewards you receive in sharing of yourselves are many and joyous; have a healthy, positive expectation of getting to know others, and yourself, better. And may you count the blessings of many, many friendships in the give and take of life.

Chaplain Laurie Perrin,  
Wolfville Nursing Homes,



## "Women's Retreat" by Brenda Crozman

"On Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> members and friends of Orchard Valley were offered the opportunity to be part of a Women's Retreat at the Greenwich Community Centre. The event was facilitated by Robyn Brown-Hewitt and approximately 30 women treated themselves to a day of quiet reflection, exchanging insights, fresh air walks, and of course good food. I had never been to a retreat such as this before and found myself feeling a little hesitant but excited. The

weather for the day turned out to be a one of the nicest winter days we had seen with bright sunshine and only a light breeze, leading us all to hold out hope of an early spring, which by now you all know was not to be. I was warmly greeted and made to feel very comfortable not only by those I already knew but also by the new acquaintances I met. It was made clear to us first thing that "what happens and is said in the room, stays in the room". We partici-

pated in small group discussions and large group sharing, we discovered things we had in common and ways in which we are all uniquely different. We dissected the story of Mary and Martha and those wishing to do so were invited to be part of a role playing where we shared our thoughts and ideas about some of the underlying aspects of the story – it was very interesting, enlightening and yes even had its humorous moments.

The event was considered to be a wonderful success and the end of the day had many of us asking, so, when will we do this again. Robyn shared her wonderful gift of leadership with us, for which we are truly grateful. I would encourage anyone who was sitting on the fence wondering if they should attend, to make the jump quickly next time the opportunity is offered.

## "Men's Retreat"

by David Murphy

On March 29 the first OVUC Men's Retreat was held. We were a small but lively group! The participants did a number of things during their day together. We started the morning with community building activities that allowed us a great space to tell stories, learn new things about each other and generally take the temperature of how we were doing. It also allowed us to see what we had in common and what made us different.

Later in the morning, we explored research about men and the church that our facilitator, John Wray, had been working on. This allowed us time to think both theologically and practically about our church and our involvement.

The afternoon sessions were for exploring the story from Acts 27 (check it out if you get the chance) through some creative storytelling that was fascinating.



After a break we shared in a learning circle to talk about our journey together and what our hopes and fears are as we move forward.

There was much singing by the men with Dave Murphy leading us on guitar and an abundance of snacks and an incredible lunch served by Cheryl

Manzer and Beth Pattillo of the Friday Morning Women's Breakfast Group. Thanks so much ladies!

A special thanks needs to go out to the planning team led by David Murphy Bruce Tymchuk, Ian Godfrey and Maurice Tugwell. We hope to make this an annual event.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry by Claudia Tugwell



The Orchard Valley Prayer Shawl Ministry started a new tradition recently when seven people joined our church. We gave each of them a prayer square or

pocket prayer. These small squares are knit or crocheted in various colours and come with a blessing and an explanation of what they are.

Tucked in a pocket or bag they can be with you wherever you go to remind you of your connection to our faith community and to comfort in time of need.

## OVUC UCW by Helen Hansford

The Orchard Valley UCW meets monthly and have enjoyed informative guest speakers. It was decided that we would not be a fundraising group although we are happy to help other

committees when called upon. We try to adhere to our purpose that states we “express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ through Christian witness, study, fellowship and service”.

As a merging group we are learning together and forming new friendships and welcome others to join us as we learn and fellowship together.



## Children's Corner—Seek a Word

WE  
BELIEVE  
IN  
GOD  
THE  
ETERNAL  
FATHER  
AND  
IN

HIS  
SON  
JESUS  
CHRIST  
AND  
IN  
THE  
HOLY  
GHOST

Q I N D C H R I S T  
V Z X B G G H O S T  
X J N E O K E O A N  
K I V L D E T F G W  
S N H I N T Q A A E  
O I I E C E J T N H  
N Y S V K R E H D O  
T B A E V N S E P L

## Calendar



We're on the Web!  
[orchardvalleyunited.ca](http://orchardvalleyunited.ca)

Apr. 20: Easter Day; Earth Sunday

Apr. 22: Earth Day

Apr. 27: Camping Sunday

### **May 2014**

May is Asian Heritage Month.

May 11: Christian Family Sunday; Mother's Day

May 17: International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia

May 19: Victoria Day

May 25: Rural Life (Rogation) Sunday

May 26: National Day of Healing and Reconciliation

May 29: Ascension Day

### **June 2014**

June 1: Environment Sunday

June 8: Day of Pentecost; Union Sunday

June 10: 89th Anniversary of Church Union

June 15: Trinity Sunday; Father's Day

June 21: National Aboriginal Day

June 22: Aboriginal Sunday

June 27: Canadian Multiculturalism Day

### **July 2014**

July 1: Canada Day

### **August 2014**

Aug. 4: Civic Holiday